

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-1802

October 7, 2010

Mr. Michael Michalak  
Ambassador  
Embassy of the United States  
Hanoi, Vietnam

Ambassador Michalak:

We write today to bring your attention to recent reports of continued intimidation by the Da Nang police in the village of Con Dau, Da Nang.

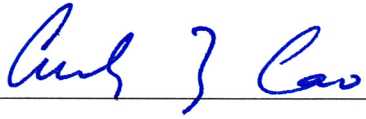
As you are aware, Vietnamese authorities harassed, arrested and severely beat many Con Dau residents during the funeral procession for Mrs. Dang Thi Tan in May 2010. Mr. Nguyen Nam, a member of the procession, was among those injured when chaos ensued after the police disrupted the proceedings and attempted to confiscate the coffin of Mrs. Dang. According to family members, Mr. Nam was later detained, questioned and brutally beaten for refusing to disclose information regarding a video clip released to the media and posted on the internet documenting the May events, including beatings Mr. Nam endured during the funeral procession. Tragically, Mr. Nam died on July 3 shortly after his release.

The government of Vietnam maintains that Mr. Nam died of a stroke. Mrs. Doan Thi Hong-Anh, the widow of Nguyen Nam, has publicly stated, however, and in a subsequent phone conversation with Congressman Cao that her husband was a healthy man before he was arrested by the police and that during the police interrogation he suffered multiple wounds.

On October 6, 2010, Rep. Cao received a letter from Mr. Simon Nguyen, brother of Nguyen Nam, reporting further intimidation tactics against Mr. Nam's family. In fact, Mr. Nguyen relayed that the Vietnamese police visited Mr. Nam's widow to demand that she unequivocally state that her husband's death was indeed the result of a stroke and that any circulated reports making other assertions, on the internet or elsewhere, are incorrect. Mr. Nam's widow, however, refused. After further threats, the police left her house. We have included a copy of the letter for your review.

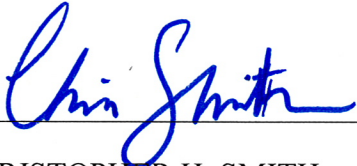
We are deeply disturbed by these developments and respectfully request that the U.S. Embassy meet with surviving members of Mr. Nguyen Nam's family to inquire further into this matter. We also ask that you continue to raise the serious issue of police abuse and intimidation with the government of Vietnam.

Sincerely,



ANH "JOSEPH" CAO

Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Member of Congress



FRANK WOLF

Member of Congress



EDWARD R. ROYCE

Member of Congress

cc: Mr. An Thanh Le, Consul General, HCM City, Vietnam